

[The Associated Press](#)

*East Valley Tribune*

Two members of Congress want a less damaging approach to building the South Mountain Freeway connecting Chandler to Laveen.

U.S. House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit chairman Peter DeFazio toured the proposed 22-mile planned freeway route Monday with U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell of Arizona.

The Oregon Democrat said the connection is clearly needed. The question, Defazio said, is how disruptive the state's preferred alignment will be.

The state approach would take out three mountain ranges, 184 homes, a church and several apartment complexes.

Mitchell has urged the state to work with the Gila River Indian Community over placing the freeway route along flat, undeveloped tribal land immediately to the south.